

YANKEE TROOPS TAKE POSITION

Reinforcement of Entente Troops by 'Americans Gives Teutons' Opponents Superiority in Man-Power and Artillery for First Time, Says Baker's Report.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Warning the nation not to let reports of strikes and other internal disturbances in Germany slacken its war preparations, Secretary Baker in his weekly military review today also makes the official announcement that American troops are at last holding a portion of the actual battle front.

For the first time, also, Secretary Baker declares it is fully believed that the Allies have a preponderance of men and guns on the western front, despite the fact that the German line has been strengthened by troops from the Russian field. Secretary Baker declared the reports of numerical superiority have been spread by the enemy himself.

Reviewing operations for the week ending Feb. 2, Secretary Baker says: "American troops, which have now completed their training, are occupying a portion of the actual battle front. The operations in which our troops have so far been engaged were of a minor character."

"On Jan. 30 the Germans attempted a strongly pushed raid against our line for purposes of identification. Under cover of a heavy mist the enemy was able to reach our advanced positions. A short burst ensued and the raiders were compelled to withdraw in haste, after inflicting slight casualties."

"Two days later the enemy apparently attempted another reconnoitering thrust, but was dispersed before any headway could be made."

"Our patrols have been active in No Man's Land, and our scouts have made themselves familiar with the details of the hostile position opposite them."

"Another event of importance took place in France. The inter-Allied supreme war council met in Versailles, attended by Gen. Bliss, chief of staff of the army, and Gen. Pershing, as well as the representatives of France, Great Britain and Italy. Complete and close co-operation between the Allies and ourselves, and a harmonious understanding between the supreme commands of all the forces engaged promises to show positive results. Unity of purpose on all fronts will thus be attained."

RULE BOOK FOR TEUTON SPIES IS DISCOVERED

Christiania, Norway, Feb. 2.—An official handbook of German espionage, one of the most remarkable documents of the war, was produced as evidence in the course of the great Bergen spy case, which has just been ended in the courts with the conviction of six of the defendants.

The handbook was found in the safe of Herr Pausche, one of the employees of the so-called German information agency. Its title-page bears the inscription, "Duties of the Espionage Service," and it contains, in the words of the court, "the objects and methods of the German information agency in Scandinavia."

The introduction says that important information can be obtained through the neutral or enemy ships which come to Scandinavian ports, regarding such points as minefields, minebelts, changes in lightships, etc. "By such information," it explains, "our U-boats can be shown not only safe routes, but also objects of attack."

The following is a summary of one chapter:

"Through shipping only can we get to know the enemy's guardships where his ships are stationed, knowledge of his cruisers and other information. The best source is a ship captain, but they are difficult to obtain as they are not high paid. The younger mates are easier. But if neither of these is available, the most likely person on a ship should be approached. Monthly payment of 50 to 600 kroner is available. Captains on English passenger routes are usually paid 500 kroner. Mates on neutral tramp steamers between England and France, 100 to 125 kroner."

"Much information can be obtained from passengers also," says the handbook. The importance is shown of maintaining a good connection with representatives of the neutral press."

The hiring of commercial or other persons who travel in the enemy's country is suggested. "The best persons," says the handbook, "are commercial travellers who have been accustomed to travel for some firm, and who carry on an actual and continuous business. Just now also waiters, metal-workers for shipyards and ammunition factories, and nurses are much sought after in England. Women are especially recommended as good agents for obvious reasons."

"The greatest danger is said to be in the sending of information. But this," says the writer of the handbook, "is reduced to a minimum by our chemical agents in Germany who have taken special interest in this and have prepared means, which owing to the inferiority of the enemy's chemical knowledge, he is unable to detect. The materials are given to agents in a form which attracts no attention."

One of these methods illustrated in the course of the trial was by means of handkerchiefs, on which the information was conveyed by means of invisible ink.

FOUR BALLOONING STUDENTS MISSING FROM ARMY CAMP

Macon, Ga., Feb. 2.—Four students of the balloon school at Camp Wheeler who ascended Friday morning at 10 o'clock have not been heard from since.

U.S. AGENT NABS TWO TEUTONS

Lane Arrests Alien Pair Long Sought by Department of Justice.

Monday, Feb. 4. Frederick Lotje and John Frederick August, alien enemies arrested by Federal Agent Charles E. Lane are held by the authorities pending action on their cases by the Department of Justice. Lotje is said to be a dangerous enemy, and has been sought by federal agents all over the country. He was arrested in Greenwich Saturday.

According to information in possession of the Department of Justice, Lotje was born in Germany in 1893 and came to this country in 1913. He applied for an enemy alien permit in Brooklyn, New York, last year, but he failed to comply with the regulations and a permit was refused.

He gave utterance to a great number of disloyal statements, it is charged, and finally orders were issued for his apprehension as a dangerous alien enemy.

John Frederick August, residing at 59 Franklin street, Bridgeport, the other alien enemy placed under arrest, has been working on the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad as a fireman. He applied for a permit last May, and on account of the nature of his work the permit was refused. He was told to seek other employment, but up to last Saturday he had failed to follow the instructions given him by the Department of Justice.

It is probable that both persons will be interned for the duration of the war.

GREAT BRITAIN TO EXCHANGE MEN WITH TURKEY

Berne, Switzerland, Feb. 4.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—British and Turkish delegates, who have been conferring here for some time in regard to a proposed exchange of prisoners, have closed their negotiations after reaching what the British delegates describe as "a satisfactory arrangement."

The negotiations provide not only for the exchange of prisoners, but also for a complete inspection of prison camps. Turkey has about 10,000 British prisoners, mostly Indians, while Great Britain has 50,000 Turks. It is expected that the agreement will be immediately ratified and within a few weeks the first exchange will be made on Swiss soil, 1,000 British invalid prisoners, being exchanged for 1,500 Turks. After this exchange there will be an examination of all prisoners under a low schedule of disability by a mixed commission of Turkish and British doctors, this arrangement doing away with the delay incident to the employment of neutral doctors.

The negotiations with the Turks proved far more satisfactory than the British delegates had expected. The discussions were conducted in a conciliatory spirit on both sides. A number of supplementary agreements were reached regarding treatment of prisoners hereafter.

COMPLETE PLAN FOR EXEMPTING DITCH SHIPPING

The Hague, Holland, Feb. 2.—Negotiations have been completed between Dutch ship owners and the government regarding conditions under which grain ships now in American ports will be exempted from requisition by the government. These vessels will be free to sail in accordance with the arrangement made provisionally between the United States and Holland.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Some of the Dutch ships referred to in The Hague dispatch already have been assigned to go to Argentina to load corn for Belgian relief, and others will bring wheat to the United States. The wheat will be milled and while the flour may be exported, the bran and cattle food will be retained here.

FINLAND ISLES WOULD BE PART OF SWEDEN NOW

London, Feb. 4.—King Gustav of Sweden, according to a Stockholm dispatch, has received a deputation from the Oland islands, who presented a petition from the inhabitants asking for reunion with Sweden.

The Oland islands, numbering 80, are in the gulf of Bothnia and have formed part of Finland.

MUNITIONS DEPOT BLOWS UP; MANY AUSTRIANS DEAD

London, Feb. 4.—The explosion of a munition depot near Prague, capital of Bohemia involving the loss of many lives, is reported in dispatches forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph Co. According to some accounts the depot was blown up intentionally.

LAST OF FIRST DRAFT MEN TO LEAVE FEB. 23

Washington, Feb. 4.—Provost Marshal General Crowder today announced that the movement of the last increments of men selected in the first draft will begin on Feb. 23 and continue for a period of five days. This will complete the operation of the first draft, as states will have furnished their full quotas.

The movement will bring the strength of the national army up to the 655,000 men contemplated in the first draft.

The numbers of men which will be started to the cantonments on Feb. 23 are: Camp Devens, Mass., 5,575; Upton, N. Y., 7,500; Dix, N. J., 7,000; Meade, Md., 6,000; Lee, Va., 3,000; Jackson, S. C., 3,333 negroes; Gordon, Ga., 2,800 (negroes); Grant, Ill., 5,000; Taylor, Ky., 6,234; Dodge, Iowa, 14,984; Funston, Kan., 2,332; Travis, Tex., 7,558; Pike, Ark., 2,000 (negroes).

Bridgeport's remaining 15 per cent. of the quota of 2,125 men, with the exception of about 75 negroes, was sent to Fort Wright to fill the gaps in the National Guard units there early in December. The local boards have no instructions on sending away the negro draftees.

GREEK INFANTRY REGIMENTS NEAR LAMIA IN REVOLT

Athens, Feb. 4.—A mutiny that involved a large proportion of the Greek army infantry regiments stationed at Lamia, about 90 miles northwest of Athens, and a few artillerymen in the town occurred last Friday evening. It was promptly suppressed.

An official statement attributes the mutiny to a desire to hamper mobilization. No officers took part. Most of the seditious soldiers returned to their barracks and laid down their arms.

Troops sent to Lamia from Athens and Laodicea pursued the remainder of the mutineers and arrested them. A court martial was convened to try the delinquents.

NEW YORK STANDS AGAINST RECISSION OF CLOSING RULE

New York, Feb. 2.—State and municipal fuel authorities indicated today that they opposed any move by the national fuel administration to modify the plan providing for heatless Mondays in an effort to conserve coal consumption.

The situation involving the arrival of less coal than is needed continues here, it was said, and any step that would result in a general increase in the use of fuel would endanger the operation of necessary industries. Albert H. Wiggin, state fuel administrator, plans to send a representative to Washington on Monday to confer with National Administrator Garfield and Director-General of Railroads McAdoo.

"The situation does not warrant a rescinding of the Monday order," Mr. Wiggin said. "Sufficient coal is not coming in to supply all demands and we must continue to conserve in every possible manner if we are to get through the winter without a greater closing down of business."

FIFTY ELECTRICS AND BARN BURNED IN \$200,000 FIRE

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 4.—Fifty electric cars and the large barn of the Wheeling Traction Co., on Wheeling street, were destroyed by fire early today. The damage is estimated at \$200,000. The fire started when a carman attempted to light a heater and oil soaked waste took fire.

The Wheeling Traction Co. is controlled by the West Pennsylvania Traction Co. of Pittsburgh.

RELATION FOLLOWS U.S. MEN'S CLASH WITH FOE

With the American Army in France, Sunday, Feb. 3.—(By The Associated Press).—American officers are elated over the results of the first artillery contest between American and German gunners, which followed a preliminary shelling by the Germans on Saturday evening. In official reports to the headquarters of their organizations the infantry commanders today paid tribute to the promptness with which the artillery responded to the call for a barrage and to the effectiveness of the artillery fire.

Aerial reconnaissance today showed the American gun fire had had a very destructive effect. It is known that at least three enemy dugouts were demolished, probably with some casualties.

In a regimental headquarters village shelled by the enemy many buildings were wrecked. There were no casualties among the officers. The whistling of two big shells gave warning of the coming bombardment and officers and men sought shelter in the dugouts. The bombardment of the headquarters village came at the end of a period of shelling that had extended gradually along several kilometers of the front.

NEW STRIKE STARTED IN JENA'S FACTORIES

London, Feb. 4.—With the exception of a new movement at Jena, reported by the Tagblatt of Berlin, the German strike appears virtually to have ended. The leaders of the strikers advised that work be resumed today.

German newspapers record no disturbances in Berlin on Saturday. The directors of the Krupp works report that only 400 out of 110,000 workmen went on strike, and that these were fined or dismissed.

The Berlin Vorwarts says the building in which the court martial is sitting is closed to the public and guarded by troops. Heinrich Schultze, the prisoner prior to be tried, was sentenced to imprisonment for six months for distributing leaflets urging workers to strike.

TWAIN HELD IN HALIFAX FINDINGS

Pilot Mackay and French Steamer Captain Lamodec Blamed For Blow-Up.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 4.—Blame for the collision between the French munition ship Mont Blanc and the Belgian relief ship Imo, resulting in the explosion of the Mont Blanc, which destroyed a large part of Halifax on Dec. 6, was placed on Pilot Mackay of Halifax and Capt. Lamodec of the French ship, in a judgment announced today by the government commission which investigated the collision.

The commission held that Capt. Lamodec and the pilot violated the rules of the road.

With the announcement of the commission's judgment Pilot Mackay was arrested, charged with manslaughter, the commission having recommended that he be criminally prosecuted and his license be cancelled.

Capt. Lamodec was also arrested, charged with manslaughter.

The commission also recommended to the French authorities the cancellation of the license of Capt. Lamodec and "that he be dealt with according to the law of his country."

FLOUR HOARDING IN ELM CITY IS BARED BY BOARD

Hartford, Feb. 1.—On top of the recent wheat flour ruling from Washington and the accompanying warning against hoarding in private families, the United States Food Administration today uncovered in New Haven systematic hoarding of serious dimensions. The local Federal Food Administrator in New Haven, Thomas W. Farnham, has received the assurance of the wholesaler involved that his part in the hoarding of 96-pound sacks of flour, to the extent of 10 to 20 sacks in some cases, was due to ignorance of the provisions of the food control act and the wholesaler has indicated a willingness to co-operate with the new regulations which provide that with every hundred pounds of wheat flour sold, the purchaser must take at least 25 pounds of one of the wheat substitutes such as corn meal or barley.

When confronted with the evidence that he had delivered to one family eight 96-pound sacks of flour, all within a few days, the wholesaler not only admitted the facts but produced a list of eight other families, all in the foreign section of New Haven, who had bought from four to ten sacks of flour within the last ten days. The wholesaler was busy today collecting all the delivered sacks, except one each to a family, and in each case returned the purchase price.

In this instance no federal prosecutions of the private individuals involved is contemplated because it is believed they were guilty of hoarding without full knowledge of the law in the case but the food administrator made it clear today that hereafter, because of the wide publicity that has been given the new rules and the hoarding warning, individual hoarders of any necessary food stuffs, flour, sugar, or any other commodity, private hoarders are likely to be arraigned in the federal court.

There is a very general belief that everyone can get more pay without increasing the prices of commodities.

DECLARES CLAIM PREPOSTEROUS

Statements of Secretary on War Preparations Without Foundation, Charges Opponent in Scathing Attack Before Senate— Urges Centralized Control.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Secretary Baker's statement that the United States would have 500,000 soldiers in France early next year and that prospects were not unpromising for ships to carry a million more were characterized by Senator Hitchcock in an address to the senate today as "absolutely preposterous and x x x so exaggerated as to convey an entirely false impression as to what we can do and what we are doing."

Supporting the committee's bills for a war cabinet and a munition director, Senator Hitchcock declared Secretary Baker was no doubt sincere, but was misled by lack of information regarding scarcity of ships into making sanguine predictions. He said President Wilson himself "does not know the real situation," and cited this situation as an illustration of the absence of government co-ordination.

BOLSHEVIKI FIRE UPON SWEDISH

Russian Sailors and Red Guards Attack Scandinavian Gunboat

Stockholm, Feb. 4.—Swedish steamers accompanied by a gunboat and an ice breaker, which had crossed the gulf of Bothnia to take on Swedish subjects desiring to leave Finland on account of the rebellion, were fired on yesterday by members of the revolutionary Red Guard on the island of Raseborg, near the Finnish port of Myrskyluoto. Six shells burst within a short distance of the ice breaker.

Later Russian soldiers and Red Guards boarded the gunboat and explained that they had fired in the belief that the steamers were carrying troops and munitions. They permitted all the vessels except the gunboat to enter the port.

BRAVERY MEDALS GIVEN TOTS WHO FOUGHT COUGAR

London, Feb. 4.—In recognition of their courage in fighting with their fists a cougar which attacked them, King George has awarded the Albert Medal to two children of Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island. The children are Doreen Ashburnham, 11 years old, and Anthony Farrer, 8 years old. According to the account recorded in the Official Gazette, it transpired as follows:

On the 23rd of September, 1916, the two children left their home at Cowichan Lake for the purpose of catching their ponies and when about half a mile from home, they were attacked by the cougar. They were almost upon the animal before they saw it crouching in a patch at a corner. The cougar first sprang upon the little girl and she was knocked down with her face to the ground, the animal being on her back. The boy at once attacked the cougar with his fists and riding bridle, driving the animal off the girl; it then attacked him and his companion getting to her feet, came to his rescue, fighting with her clenched hands and bridle, even putting her arm into the cougar's mouth, to try to prevent it from biting him. She succeeded in getting it off the boy. It then stood on its hindquarters and fought with her but evidently was disturbed by some sound as it presently slunk away and ran under a log, where it was afterwards killed.

The cougar measured over seven feet from nose to tip of tail.

Francis allowed 150 roubles for staff members.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Ambassador Francis and members of his staff in Petrograd are assured of 150 roubles a person a week, according to information that has reached the state department. The rouble is now valued at about 10 cents. The ambassador reported to the state department at the time the banks were closed in Petrograd the difficulty he was having in drawing money that had been placed in one of the banks to his credit and that he was attempting to establish a credit in Vladivostok. No report of any new order by the Bolshevik government closing credits to Ambassador Francis and other diplomats at the local banks has been sent to the department.

To coal ships at pier.

Washington, Feb. 4.—To relieve lighterage conditions in New York harbor and promote speeding loading of ships Director General McAdoo ordered today six railroads to assign about 20 piers on the New Jersey side for the coaling and loading of vessels.

BURRILLE 33 BELOW

Torrington, Feb. 2.—The coldest weather in the history of this section of the state was recorded here last night when the mercury dropped to a minimum of 24 degrees below zero. Winsted reported a minimum of 27 below and Burrville 33 below. New records are reported in Gosden, Hartford, Litchfield and Norfolk.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The government took the final steps today toward taking over administration of the fuel oil industry. By presidential proclamation to be issued soon the industry will be placed under the fuel administration and conducted under license.

TO LICENSE OIL INDUSTRY.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The general office building of the Osgood Bradley Car Co. in Greendale, which is engaged in United States war work, was damaged by fire today, causing a loss of about \$10,000 and the loss of many valuable records.

BIG FIRE IN WORCESTER

Worcester, Feb. 4.—The general office building of the Osgood Bradley Car Co. in Greendale, which is engaged in United States war work, was damaged by fire today, causing a loss of about \$10,000 and the loss of many valuable records.